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## NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

The Common Law of Pennsylvania: A Lecture read before the Law Academy of Philadelphia, at the Opening of the Session of 1855-6. By Hon. George Sharswood, Provost of the Academy. Philadelphia, 1856: L. R. Bailey; pp. 30.

This is an introductory discourse on the sources of the common law in Pennsylvania, written with the usual clearness, accuracy, and ability of Judge Sharswood. The learned writer ranges himself decidedly on the side of those who consider the law of tenure, derived from the feudal system, as surviving the revolution, and as still the foundation of, as well as interwoven into, our law of real estate. The arguments which he uses, and which will be found presented by him more concisely and coherently than anywhere else, perhaps, appear to us difficult to answer. A sketch of the modifications introduced into the English common law, by the changes of the customs and habits of life of our people, and of the tacit but prudent adaptation thereto by the courts, of the statute law of the mother country, furnishes another subject of interest. Some observations on the character and duties of the law student, written in the judicious and elevated tone which characterized the "Legal Ethics" of the author, conclude the lecture. The style in which this pamphlet is got up, indicates that taste is not neglected, in the midst of the severer products of legal training, by the members of the Law Academy.

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A Selection of Leading Cases on Various Branches of the Law, with Notes by John William Smith, Esq. American editors, J. I. Clark Hare and H. B. Wallace. Fifth American, from the last English edition, by Keating and Willes, Esqrs. With Additional Notes and References to American Decisions, by J. I. Clark Hare and J. W. Wallace. Two vols. Philadelphia, 1855: T. & J. W. Johnson. 8vo. pp. 988 and 758.

Mr. Smith's leading cases, and the notes of his distinguished American editors, have made a reputation which is now beyond the need of praise. It is unnecessary for us, therefore, to do more than call the attention of our readers to the appearance of the fifth edition of this valuable work. The last English edition, from which this is taken, is that of Messrs. Keating and Willes, men of the highest standing at the English bar, and worthy to succeed to the legal inheritance of Mr. Smith. The notes of the American editors have been much enlarged; those of the late Mr. Wal-